AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

COMPLETE LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 : (Original) A method of manufacturing an object, comprising the steps of:

a) forming a support carrier of a shape-retaining material;

b) positioning a lower film of a flexible material more flexible than the material of the carrier, on and in overlapping relationship with the carrier;

c) positioning an upper film of a flexible material more flexible than the material of the carrier, on and in overlapping relationship with the lower film; and

d) sealing overlapping portions of the films together to form a sealed film assembly while the films are positioned on the carrier.

Claim 2 : (Original) The method of claim 1; and the step of feeding the support carrier from a carrier roll through a sealing station at which the sealing is performed; and wherein each positioning step is performed by feeding the lower and upper films from respective film rolls through the sealing station.

Claim 3 : (Original) The method of claim 1; and the steps of coating the lower and upper films with fusible coatings; and wherein the positioning steps are performed by feeding the lower and upper films with the fusible coatings facing each other.

Claim 4 : (Original) The method of claim 1; and the step of conveying the support carrier on a silicone sealing belt through the sealing station.

Claim 5 : (Original) The method of claim 1; and the step of adhering the lower film to the carrier simultaneously with performing the sealing step to maintain a correct positional relationship between the sealed film assembly and the carrier during manufacture.

Claim 6 : (Original) The method of claim 1; and the step of laminating the lower film to the carrier prior to performing the sealing step.

Claim 7 : (Original) The method of claim 1; and the step of cutting the films while the films are positioned on the carrier.

Claim 8 : (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the cutting step is performed simultaneously with the sealing step.

Claim 9 : (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the cutting step is performed subsequently to the sealing step.

Claim 10 : (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the overlapping portions are sealed boundary areas extending at least partly along a periphery of the object to be manufactured, and wherein the cutting step is performed at least partly within the boundary areas.

Claim 11 : (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the carrier has peripheral edges, and wherein the boundary areas are cut along a cutting line located at a spacing from the peripheral edges; and the step of removing the lower and upper films from the spacing.

Claim 12 : (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the carrier has peripheral edges, and wherein the boundary areas are cut along a cutting line located at a spacing from the peripheral edges; and the step of leaving the lower and upper films in the spacing.

Claim 13 : (Original) The method of claim 2; and the step of cutting the carrier subsequently to the sealing step to form a sheet on which the sealed film assembly is supported.

Claim 14 : (Original) The method of claim 1; and the step of printing on the sealed film assembly in registration with the carrier.

Claim 15 : (Original) The method of claim 1; and the step of inserting an inflation valve in the sealed film assembly.

Claim 16 : (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the lower and upper films overlap and contact each other over a surface area; and the step of adhering the lower and upper films together over the entire surface area of contact.

Claim 17 : (Original) An arrangement for manufacturing an object, comprising:

a) means for supplying a support carrier of a shape-retaining material;

b) means for positioning a lower film of a flexible material more flexible than the material of the carrier, on and in overlapping relationship with the carrier;

c) means for positioning an upper film of a flexible material more flexible than the material of the carrier, on and in overlapping relationship with the lower film; and

d) means for sealing overlapping portions of the films together to form a sealed film assembly while the films are positioned on the carrier.

Claim 18 : (Original) The arrangement of claim 17; and means for adhering the lower film to the carrier simultaneously with operation of the sealing means to maintain a correct positional relationship between the sealed film assembly and the carrier during manufacture.

Claim 19 : (Original) The arrangement of claim 17; and means for cutting the films while the films are positioned on the carrier.

Claim 20 : (Original) The arrangement of claim 17; and means for printing on the sealed film assembly in registration with the carrier.

Claim 21 : (Original) A sealed film assembly, comprising:

a) a support carrier of a shape-retaining material;

b) a lower film of a flexible material more flexible than the material of the carrier, on and in overlapping relationship with the carrier;

c) an upper film of a flexible material more flexible than the material of the carrier, on and in overlapping relationship with the lower film; and

d) overlapping portions of the films being sealed together to form the sealed film assembly while the films are positioned on the carrier.

Claim 22 : (Currently Amended) An inflatable film assembly, comprising:

a) a pair of overlapping, flexible films having portions sealed together to bound an interior;

b) an inlet on the films for admitting gas into the interior; and

c) ~~a valve extending between~~ an elongated valve extending from the inlet ~~and the sealed portions~~ into the interior , the valve having ~~an intermediate~~ a remote portion spaced away from the inlet and adhered to one of the films.

Claim 23 : (New) The film assembly of claim 22, and an elongated support extending along the valve, for supporting the films in an erect state on the support.